

FINAL OMB SUPPORTING STATEMENT
FOR
10 CFR PART 62
CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENCY ACCESS TO
NON-FEDERAL AND REGIONAL LOW-LEVEL WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES
(3150-0143)

EXTENSION REQUEST

Description of the Information Collection

Part 62 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations sets out the information that will have to be provided to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) by any low-level radioactive waste (LLW) generator or State seeking emergency access to an operating low-level radioactive waste disposal facility pursuant to Section 6 of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985 (PL 99-240, January 15, 1986) (the Act).

A. Justification

1. Need for and Practical Utility of the Collection of Information

Section 6 of the Act provides that NRC can override denial of access decisions and grant generators "emergency access" to the operating non-Federal disposal facilities. To receive emergency access, a State or generator must request it and successfully demonstrate to NRC that access to LLW disposal is necessary in order to eliminate a serious and immediate threat to the public health and safety or the common defense and security, and that the threat cannot be mitigated by any alternative consistent with the public health and safety, including ceasing the activities that generate the waste. From the information provided by the requester, NRC must be able to make both determinations prior to granting emergency access. NRC is also directed to grant extensions of emergency access and temporary emergency access under specified circumstances.

The Act also provides that as part of the overall decision to grant emergency access, NRC is to designate the operating LLW disposal facility/facilities which will receive the waste requiring emergency access. The requester must submit the information necessary for NRC to make sure that the LLW approved for emergency access disposal is compatible in form, composition, waste package, radioactivity, etc., with the criteria established by the license or the licensing agreement of the facility designated to receive the waste. The Act provides that any requests for emergency access should contain all information and certifications the NRC may require to make its determinations.

The Commission has promulgated a rule (10 CFR Part 62) establishing the criteria and procedures to be used for granting emergency access to non-Federal and regional LLW disposal facilities. The rule sets out the information and certifications to be provided in a request for emergency access in order for NRC to determine whether emergency access should be granted and which disposal facilities should receive the wastes.

Section 62.5 specifies the Commission may, upon application of any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant an exemption from the requirements of the regulations in this part that it determines is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest.

Section 62.11 specifies the filing and distribution requirements for a request for a Commission determination. This section also provides for publication in the Federal Register of a notice acknowledging receipt of a request for a determination and asking for public comment on the request to be submitted to the NRC within 10 days of the date of notice. Section 62.11 also provides that a copy of that notice be transmitted to specific potentially affected parties.

Section 62.12 specifies the information that must be provided to NRC in a request for emergency access. For each generator for which the request applies, general information to include the name and address of the requester and of persons or companies requiring emergency access must be provided. In addition, a statement indicating if the request is based on public health and safety or common defense and security, a certification that the waste is low-level, the activity responsible for generating the waste, name of disposal facility receiving waste prior to generator being denied access, a description of the waste including characteristics and composition, volume, time duration, packaging, and a description of volume reduction and waste minimization techniques must be provided. The NRC also requires that information concerning the circumstances that led to denial of access, a description of the situation responsible for creating the threat to the public health and safety or the common defense and security, a description of actions taken by the requester to prevent the need for making the request, and impacts on public health and safety and common defense and security if emergency access is not granted, or if generator services, including research activities were to be curtailed for a limited time or indefinitely.

Section 62.13 specifies the information that must be included in a request for emergency access on alternatives to emergency access. Information detailing the process used by the requester to identify, consider, and reject alternatives to emergency access is required, as well as information concerning the actual alternatives.

Section 62.14 specifies the information that must be provided in a request for an extension of emergency access, including documentation that the generator of the LLW and the State in which the waste was generated have diligently acted to eliminate the need for emergency access (as is required by the Act).

Section 62.15 specifies that the Commission may require additional information from the requester on any portion of the request for emergency access. This section also specifies that the Commission shall deny a request for emergency access if the additional information is not provided by the requester within 10 days from the date of the request for additional information.

2. Agency Use of Information

The information required by NRC will be reviewed by the Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs' Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection and other NRC offices and will enable NRC to make the required statutory findings:

- that there is a serious and immediate threat to the public health and safety or the common defense and security,
- that there are no mitigating alternatives available,
- that a grant of emergency access to an operating non-Federal or regional LLW disposal facility is necessary, and
- which facility/facilities should receive the waste.

In case of requests for an extension of emergency access, the information required will also enable the Commission to determine whether the person making the request has diligently pursued alternatives to emergency access.

The Act directs the Commission to decide on requests for emergency access within 45 days of their receipt. It is important if NRC is to be able to respond within this timeframe that all information necessary for making the required determinations be submitted as part of the initial request.

3. Reduction of Burden Through Information Technology

There are no legal obstacles to reducing the burden associated with this information collection. The NRC encourages respondents to use new automated information technology when it would be beneficial to them. NRC issued a regulation October 10, 2003 (68 FR 58791), consistent with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act, which allows its licensees, vendors, applicants, and members of the public the option to make submissions electronically via CD-ROM, e-mail, special Web-based interface, or other means. Because of the infrequency of submission, there currently are no electronic submissions for this clearance.

4. Effort to Identify Duplication and Use Similar Information

No sources of similar information are available. There is no duplication of requirements. NRC has in place an ongoing program to examine all information collections with the goal of eliminating all duplication and/or unnecessary information collections.

5. Effort to Reduce Small Business Burden

Since access to LLW disposal may be denied to any generator of LLW¹, the rule could potentially affect both large and small generators. The generators of LLW are nuclear power plants, medical and academic facilities, radiopharmaceutical manufacturers, fuel fabrication facilities, and government licensees. Of these categories, all but the power plants, fuel fabrication facilities, and government licensees could potentially include small entities. However, since the generator itself triggers imposition of the requirements of the rule by requesting emergency access from NRC, since the information requirements are the same for both large and small entities, and since the total number of requests for emergency access is expected to be small, NRC does not believe it is possible to reduce the burden for small businesses either by less frequent or less complete information submittals.

6. Consequences to Federal Program or Policy Activities if the Collection is Not Conducted or is Conducted Less Frequently

If the collection is not conducted, NRC will be unable to determine whether a serious and immediate threat to public health and safety or the common defense and security exists that warrants the granting of emergency access to the low-level waste disposal facility. NRC is not using Part 62 to impose a schedule for a periodic collection of information. The information requirements set out in the rule will only apply when an LLW generator requests emergency access from NRC. Thus, the frequency of collection will not be controlled by NRC but will be dictated by the needs of the generators.

7. Circumstances Which Justify Variations from OMB Guidelines

The rule contains one variation from OMB guidelines. Section 62.15 allows a person requesting emergency access only 10 days to provide NRC with any additional information identified by NRC as necessary for its review. This period of time is significantly shorter than the 30 days normally required for such information collection under the OMB guidelines. However, given that the request will be for an emergency situation, that NRC will have less than 45 days total to review requests for emergency access and arrive at its decisions, and given the complexity of the review and decision-making process, it would be impossible to accommodate a 30-day response time, and the 10-day response time for additional information is both necessary and reasonable.

8. Consultations Outside the NRC

The opportunity for public comment on the information collection requirements was published in the Federal Register on February 9, 2009 (74 FR 6422). No comments were received.

¹ As of July 1, 2008, access to the Barnwell, SC Low-level Waste Disposal Facility was denied to generators in all but three states. To date, this has led to no emergency access requests.

9. Payment or Gift to Respondents

Not applicable.

10. Confidentiality of Information

Confidential and proprietary information is protected in accordance with NRC regulations at 10 CFR 9.17 (a) and 10 CFR 2.390 (b). However, no information normally considered confidential or proprietary is requested.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

None.

12. Estimated Burden and Burden Hour Cost

It is likely that there will be no requests for exemptions under 10 CFR 62.5 during the next three years and therefore only one exemption request is estimated. The total anticipated burden for one respondent is an estimated 6 hours at a minimal cost of \$1046 (4 hours of professional staff time @ \$238/hr + 2 hours of administrative staff time @ \$47/hr).

As previously indicated, NRC is not actually imposing an annual burden on generators of LLW as a direct result of the rule. Congress intended emergency access to be used only under rare and unusual circumstances. A generator will only have to develop the necessary information outlined in Section 62.12 when submitting a request to NRC for emergency access. As a result, NRC expects that most LLW generators will not be burdened at all by the information collection required by Part 62 and therefore only one emergency access request is estimated. The total anticipated burden for one respondent is and estimated 227 hours at a cost of \$51,543 (214 hours of professional staff hours @ \$238/hr + 13 hours of administrative staff hours @ \$47/hr). The total burden for one exemption is 6 hrs, for one respondent is an estimated 227 hours, resulting in a total burden of 233 hrs.

Therefore, the total annual burden for 10 CFR Part 62 is 233 hours (227 hours + 6 hours) at a cost of \$52,589 (218 hours of professional time @ \$238/hr + 15 hours of clerical time @ \$47/hr). These numbers will vary depending on which kind of generators requires emergency access and the circumstances involved.

13. Estimate of Other Additional Costs

None. For licensees under 10 CFR Part 62, it is most likely that purchases of equipment and services were made (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

14. Estimated Annualized Cost to the Federal Government

a) It is likely that there will be no requests for exemptions under 10 CFR Part 62.5 during the next three years and therefore only one exemption request is estimated. The following costs would be incurred by the NRC:

For a request for an exemption under Section 62.5, NRC estimates that it would likely require 11 hours to make a determination that an exemption is appropriate and a total cost of \$1,567.50 (5.50 hours of professional staff time @ \$238/hr + 5.50 hours of administrative staff time @ \$47/hr).

b) NRC cost to process a request for emergency access:

1) Emergency access on the basis of threat to the public health and safety -

NRC estimates that it will take approximately 480 hours for staff to analyze the information submitted in a request for emergency access at a cost of \$114,240 (480 hours of professional staff time @ \$238/hr).

2) Emergency access on the basis of a threat to the common defense and security -

NRC estimates that it will take approximately 320 hours for staff to analyze the information submitted in a request for emergency access at a cost of \$76,160 (320 hours of professional staff time @ \$238/hr).

3) NRC intends to involve DOE and/or DOD in the decision making process for requests for emergency access based on a threat to the common defense and security. NRC estimates that approximately 70 hours would be required for each emergency access request processed by DOE or DOD at a cost of \$16,660. (70 hours of professional staff time @ \$238/hr).

The total cost for NRC to process a request for emergency access based on threat to the public health and safety and on a threat to the common defense and security would be 800 hours and a cost of \$190,400 (800 hours of professional staff time @ \$238).

The total burden to the Federal government for emergency access is 870 hours (480 hours public health and safety + 320 hours common defense and security + 70 hours DOE/DOD).

The annual cost to the Federal government for this renewal is \$207,318.50 (870 hours of professional staff time @ \$238/hr + 5.50 hours of administrative time @ \$47/hr). NRC's costs are fully recovered by fee assessments to NRC licensees pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 170 and 171.

15. Reasons for Change in Burden or Cost

The estimated burden has increased by 6 hours from 227 hours to 233 hours because NRC only anticipates one request for exemptions under 10 CFR 62.5 during the next three years and therefore, the total burden for one exemption is

6 hrs, for one respondent is an estimated 227 hours, resulting in a total burden of 233 hrs. However, the burden cost for professional staff-hours increased from \$197 to \$238. The burden cost for administrative staff hours decreased from \$82/hr to \$47/hr.

16. Publication for Statistical Use

None.

17. Reason for Not Displaying the Expiration Date

The requirement is contained in a regulation. Amending the Code of Federal Regulations to display information that, in an annual publication, could become obsolete would be unduly burdensome and too difficult to keep current.

18. Exceptions to the Certification Statement

There are no exceptions.

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

Statistical methods are not used in this collection of information.